



**Partnerships for Learning Undergraduate Studies Program
PLUS Program Application Form**

PLUS is an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs that puts obtaining a U.S. degree within the grasp of outstanding undergraduate students.

The program selects academically strong students who are currently enrolled in their third year of undergraduate study in Saudi Arabia, and who do not already have a bachelor's degree at the time they apply for PLUS. Students selected for a PLUS scholarship will first enhance their English language and study skills at American institutions before completing an undergraduate degree program and graduating from a fully accredited U.S. university.

Besides outstanding academic performance and at least intermediate English language ability, viable undergraduates must major in a field that is transferable to the U.S. education system.

***Please complete the checklist on the next page
to determine your eligibility for PLUS.
If you are not eligible, please do not
complete the PLUS application.***

Application Deadline: November 15, 2005.

Partnerships for Learning Undergraduate Studies Program

ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST – 2006

Please PRINT Your Name: _____

You must meet all eligibility requirements to apply for the PLUS scholarship. Use this checklist to determine your eligibility. If you are not eligible, please do not complete the PLUS application.

PART 1

- I am a citizen, national or permanent resident of the country I currently live in. ☐ Yes ☐ No
- I hold or am qualified to obtain a passport of the country I currently live in. ☐ Yes ☐ No
- I am now enrolled in an undergraduate program in the country I currently live in. ☐ Yes ☐ No
- I am currently in my third year of my undergraduate studies. ☐ Yes ☐ No
- I have already completed two years of my undergraduate study in my major. ☐ Yes ☐ No
- My undergraduate GPA (grade point average) is at least B+ or "Very Good." ☐ Yes ☐ No
- I can provide documentation of my GPA in this application. ☐ Yes ☐ No
- As far as I know, I am able to receive a J-1 visa. ☐ Yes ☐ No
- I understand the J-1 visa requires a 2-year home residency at the program's end. ☐ Yes ☐ No
- I am able to be in the US from spring or summer of 2006 through spring of 2008. ☐ Yes ☐ No
- I can commit to returning home in the spring of 2008. ☐ Yes ☐ No
- I understand that PLUS does not allow dependents to travel to the U.S. ☐ Yes ☐ No
- I understand that some majors do not exist at the undergraduate level in U.S. universities such as law or medicine. ☐ Yes ☐ No
- If selected for PLUS, I understand I should remain enrolled in my current undergraduate program until my visa and departure are confirmed. ☐ Yes ☐ No
- I understand a PLUS scholarship is awarded pending timely visa issuance. ☐ Yes ☐ No

- I currently have, or will make every attempt to obtain, these original academic documents or official copies.
 - ? My secondary school transcripts: ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - ? My national general secondary school leaving exam results: ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - ? My first year university transcripts: ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - ? My second year university transcripts: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you do not have a current TOEFL/ITP or TOEFL/CBT score, please check Not Applicable:

- Is your current TOEFL/ITP score 450 or higher? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable
- Is your current TOEFL/CBT score 133 or higher? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

If you checked NO on any of the items in PART 1, you are not eligible for PLUS and should not complete this application. If you checked YES or NOT APPLICABLE on all of the items in PART 1, please continue to PART 2 of the Eligibility Checklist.

PART 2

- Do you already have an undergraduate degree? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do you have an American green card? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Have you applied for U.S. permanent residency in the last three years? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered YES to any of the questions in PART 2, you are not eligible for PLUS and should not complete this application. If you answered NO to all questions in PART 2, please continue to PART 3 of the Eligibility Checklist.

PART 3

- ? I answered YES or NOT APPLICABLE to all of the items in Part 1. ☐ True ☐ False
- ? I answered NO to all three questions in Part 2. ☐ True ☐ False

If you answered TRUE to both questions in PART 3, you are eligible for PLUS and can complete the application.

If you answered FALSE on either question in PART 3, you are not eligible for PLUS and should not complete this application.

Administration Use Only -- I am in the program office and take responsibility for determining this applicant's eligibility. I have reviewed the checklist and determined that this applicant [check one] ☐ is / ☐ is not eligible to apply for PLUS. I understand that ineligible applications will not go any further in the PLUS nomination process.

Please PRINT Your Name: _____ Please SIGN Your Name: _____
Please Enter Today's Date: _____

**Partnerships for Learning Undergraduate Studies Program
APPLICATION CONTACT SHEET**

YOUR NAME

(as it appears on your passport or official documents) Last First Middle Title (Mr., Miss,)

HOME COUNTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

Permanent mailing address in your home country: _____
Home telephone: _____
Mobile telephone: _____
Fax number: _____
E-mail address: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide the names and contact information of individuals who should be notified in case of an emergency.

In the United States: _____
Name Relationship to you Street Address
City State ZIP Code Telephone Number E-mail address

In your home country: _____
Name Relationship to you Street Address
City State and/or Country Telephone Number E-mail address

Does the contact in your home country speak English? Yes No
If the contact does *not* speak English, please indicate any other language that he/she speaks: _____

FIELD OF STUDY OR MAJOR

Sometimes PLUS students express an interest in changing their majors in the U.S. PLUS allows only limited flexibility because the PLUS scholarship is only valid for two years of academic study. This means you can change your major but only if you can graduate from the U.S. university in two years. For example, if you are now majoring in English and would like to change your major in the U.S., some possible options are communications, political science, or international studies. If, however, your current major is English and you would like to change it to the sciences or computer engineering, you would not be able to graduate in two years which means you cannot select those majors.

If you want to major in such specialized areas as the sciences, information technology, or engineering, you must currently be studying in those majors now.

What is your current major? _____

Please list up to three fields of study that you would like to major in as a U.S. university student. Lists your choices in order of preference. Every effort will be made to honor your choices.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

To help you make your choices, please review the attachment "U.S. Education System."

Administration use only
Application Number _____

Partnerships for Learning Undergraduate Studies Program
APPLICATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFER STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES
The PLUS Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

YOUR NAME

(as it appears on your passport) Last First Middle Title (Mr., Miss, Mrs.)
Or official documents)

Please indicate other spellings or names you use: _____

U.S. CONTACT INFORMATION

(ADMIN. USE: To be entered when placing agency is known)

(Affix 2 passport photos here)

PERSONAL DATA:

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female Date of Birth: _____ Place: _____
Month/Day/Year City Country

Country of permanent legal residence: _____ Country of citizenship: _____

Do you have another nationality? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please indicate: _____

Is there a reason that might make it difficult for you to be away from your country or your family during the period of the scholarship? ☐ No ☐ Yes. If you answered yes, what arrangements will you make that will allow you to commit to completing your program? _____

ACADEMIC LETTERS OF REFERENCE AND RECOMMENDATION FORMS

Please identify the three individuals who will be writing your academic letters of recommendation and completing the required Recommendation Forms. At least one should be from your secondary school. Make sure these are people who know your academic and personal qualities well.

1. Name: _____ Title: _____

Mailing address: _____

Telephone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

2. Name: _____ Title: _____

Mailing address: _____

Telephone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

3. Name: _____ Title: _____

Mailing address: _____

Telephone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Your Name:

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC HONORS

Please indicate any scholarships, academic awards, or honors that you have received and the year received:

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Please provide complete information about all the educational institutions that you have attended and where you are currently enrolled. You must attach original transcripts or copies of transcripts for your secondary school and year one and year two of your undergraduate study, the results of the general secondary school leaving exam, and your GPA.

Institution Name (no abbreviations)	Institution Location (City, Country)	Dates Attended MM/YY – MM/YY		Major Field of Study	Name of Degree Received and Date Received ¹	Grade Point Average ²
Primary School:		From:	To:	This is not applicable. Please Leave Blank.		Final GPA:
Secondary School:		From:	To:			Final GPA:
Undergraduate- First Year		From:	To:			Final GPA:
Undergraduate- Second Year		From:	To:			Final GPA:
Undergraduate- Current Year		From:	To: Present Day		This is not applicable. Please Leave Blank.	GPA To Date, if known:

¹ Identify the name of your degree by the word used at the institution that awarded you the degree. Do *not* provide the name of the U.S. educational system's equivalent.

² Indicate your Grade Point Average (GPA) according to the system used at the institution at which you studied. Do *not* convert your GPA to the U.S. educational system's equivalent.

Please explain any gaps in your education: _____

Have you ever been dismissed from a school or university? ☐ No ☐ Yes

If yes, please explain why: _____

Your Name: _____

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Native language(s): _____

Number of years of English study: _____ Where studied: _____

Knowledge of foreign languages, including English (Rate your abilities as Excellent, Good, or Fair):

Language Name	Reading Ability	Writing Ability	Speaking Ability

STANDARDIZED ENGLISH TEST SCORES

If you have a current score for the TOEFL/ITP or TOEFL/CBT, please indicate your score and attach the score report.

Test Name	Date taken	Score
TOEFL/ITP		
TOEFL/CBT		

If you do not have a current score and need to take the TOEFL/ITP exam, put a check here:

☐ I do not yet have a current score.

NON-ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Please list community service, internships, jobs, sports, or cultural activities in which you have participated regularly in the past two years. This includes any service as a team leader, council member, or officer in any institution or activity.

Institution Name, City, Country	Activity and Your Role	Dates of Participation MM/YY – MM/YY	
		From:	To:

Your Name: _____

Physical Challenges/Disabilities:

Please describe any physical disabilities you might have. If you require any special equipment or medical treatment, please describe. This information is gathered to ensure appropriate placement. PLUS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, and/or physical disabilities.

Family Background:

Please complete the following regarding your family:

Father's Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Check the highest level of education your father has reached:

☐ None ☐ Number of primary school years _____ ☐ Number of secondary school years _____

☐ Secondary Diploma ☐ Bachelor Degree ☐ Master Degree ☐ Ph.D.

Father's Employment: ☐ Employed ☐ Retired _____ Year ☐ Deceased _____ Year

Mother's Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Check the highest level of education your mother has reached:

☐ None ☐ Number of primary school years _____ ☐ Number of secondary school years _____

☐ Secondary Diploma ☐ Bachelor Degree ☐ Master Degree ☐ Ph.D.

Mother's Employment: ☐ Employed ☐ Retired _____ Year ☐ Deceased _____ Year

How many members are there in your immediate family (you, parents, brothers, and sisters)? _____

How many brothers or sisters attended or graduated from college, or are now attending college? _____

How did you find out about the PLUS Program? Please check all that apply.

☐ From the American Embassy

☐ From your local AMIDEAST office
(Please specify how—through a display, advising session, email, etc.): _____

☐ From the Fulbright Commission
(Please specify how—through a display, advising session, email, etc.): _____

☐ From a friend ☐ From a relative ☐ From a teacher or professor

☐ From an advertisement or notice (Please specify the location): _____

☐ Other (Please specify how): _____

Your Name:

SHORT ESSAYS

The short essays are an essential part of the selection process and for placement into an appropriate academic program. You are required to answer the first six questions. Then, you are required to answer just one of the remaining questions, which you can select. Your responses will be in the form of short essays of 150-250 words each. You can type your essays or print them neatly by hand. If you attach your essays, put your name on the top, which essay you are responding to, and attach the page directly behind the relevant page in the application. In all cases, you must keep to the limit of 150-250 words. ***Essays that exceed the word limit are penalized in the scoring. Please adhere to the required word limit of 150-250 words.***

Essay #1 -- Discuss your personal goals and dreams and how the PLUS Program experiences would contribute to making these a reality. *You are required to limit your essay to 150-250 words.*

Essay #2 -- We would like to know what experiences have led you to select your academic field of study? *You are required to limit your essay to 150-250 words.*

Your Name:

Short essays, continued

Essay #3 -- Creative people state that taking risks often promotes important discoveries in their lives. Discuss a risk that has led to a significant change (positive or negative) in your personal or intellectual life. *You are required to limit your essay to 150-250 words.*

Essay #4 -- Please tell us about an activity that has been of special importance to you. *You are required to limit your essay to 150-250 words.*

Your Name:

Short essays, continued

Essay #5 -- Discuss a local, national, or international issue that particularly concerns you. What possible solutions can you envision? What obstacles do you see to constructive change? *You are required to limit your essay to 150-250 words.*

Essay #6 -- Imagine that it is the year 2010. What will you be doing? What contributions have you made? *You are required to limit your essay to 150-250 words.*

Your Name:

Short Essays, continued

Please select just one of the remaining questions and provide a 150-250 word essay response in the box below. Don't forget to indicate which question number you are responding to.

- ? . If you were given one year to spend in service on behalf of others, what would you choose to do, and why?
- ? . Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
- ? . How would you describe yourself as a human being? What quality do you like best in yourself and what do you like least? Please explain why.
- ? . Briefly tell us about an academic class, teacher, research project, or other educational experience in school that has been significant for you.
- ? . In your opinion, what is the greatest challenge that your generation will face? What ideas do you have for dealing with this issue?
- ? . If you could travel through time and interview a prominent figure in the arts, politics, religion, or science, for example, whom would you choose and why?

Final Essay. This essay responds to question number ____
You are required to limit your essay to 150-250 words.

Behind this page, insert:

Originals or official copies of your transcripts
for secondary school.

Secondary School Transcripts

Please put a check next to the appropriate statement:

_____ I attached an original.

_____ I attached an official copy.

Behind this page, insert:

Originals or official copies of your national general secondary school leaving exam results

National General Secondary School Leaving Exam Results

Please put a check next to the appropriate statement:

_____ I attached an original.

_____ I attached an official copy.

Behind this page, insert:

Originals or official copies of your transcripts for your first year of university undergraduate study.

University Transcripts – First Year

Please put a check next to the appropriate statement:

_____ I attached an original.

_____ I attached an official copy.

_____ I did not attach the document
I will submit the document by this
date: _____.

Behind this page, insert:

Originals or official copies of your transcripts
for your second year of university undergraduate
study.

University Transcripts – Second Year

Please put a check next to the appropriate statement:

_____ I attached an original.

_____ I attached an official copy.

_____ I did not attach the document
I will submit the document by this
date: _____.

Behind this page, insert:

Three Recommendation Forms WITH the three academic letters of recommendation.

Three Recommendation Forms with their academic letters of recommendation

Please put a check next to the appropriate statement:

_____ All three Recommendation Forms with the three academic letters of recommendation are being sent directly to the program office before the deadline.

_____ I attached the three Recommendation Forms with the three academic letters of recommendation.

Notes: _____

Behind this page, insert:

TOEFL/ITP or TOEFL/CBT Score & Passport Photocopy

1. Your TOEFL/ITP or TOEFL/CBT score.

Please put a check next to the appropriate statement:

_____ My score is attached

_____ I did not yet take the TOEFL/ITP test

2. Your photocopy of your passport's data/photo pages.

Please put a check next to the appropriate statement:

_____ I attached a copy of my passport's data/photo pages.

_____ I do not have a passport.

GRANT SUSPENSION/TERMINATION/REVOCATION

A grant may be revoked, terminated, or suspended.

Grounds for revocation or termination include, but are not limited to: (1) violation of any law of the United States or the home country; (2) any act likely to give offense to the host country; (3) failure to observe satisfactory academic or professional standards; (4) physical or mental incapacitation; (5) engaging in any unauthorized income-producing activity; (6) failure to comply with the grant's terms and conditions; (7) material misrepresentation made by any grantee in the application form or grant document.

A grant may be suspended if: (1) the grantee ceases to carry out the project or academic program during the grant period; (2) the grantee leaves the host country without authorization of the supervising agency; (3) conditions in the host country require the departure of the grantee for reasons of personal safety or security.

SIGNATURE

By my signature, I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided in my application is accurate and complete, and that I intend to return to my home country upon completion of my studies in the United States. I have asked the agency designated by the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, to arrange for my placement at an American university and request that all correspondence be directed to them. I also authorize any school or university which I have attended or will attend to release my transcripts and any report to the designated placement agency.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

CHECKLIST FOR COMPLETE APPLICATION DOSSIER:

Before submitting your application to the PLUS program office, please be sure you have included all of the following REQUIRED components:

- ☐ Completed, signed PLUS application form.
- ☐ Seven personal essay questions in English that are between 150 – 250 words each, not to exceed 250 words, typed or neatly hand-written. If written on separate paper, your name and essay question are at the top of each page which is inserted directly behind the relevant page in the application.
- ☐ Copy of the data/photo pages of your passport.
If you do not have a passport yet, check here: ☐ *I do not have a passport.*
- ☐ I confirm my passport is valid through August 2008.
If your passport will expire before August 2008, check here: ☐ *My passport will expire before August 2008.*
- ☐ Originals or official copies of transcripts for secondary school.
- ☐ Originals or official copies of results of the national general secondary school leaving exam.
- ☐ Originals or official copies of transcripts for first year of university undergraduate study.
- ☐ Originals or official copies of transcripts for second year of university undergraduate study.
- ☐ Your current TOEFL/ITP or TOEFL/CBT score report, if you have one.
- ☐ Two passport-size photos (attached on page 4 of the application).

The three completed Recommendation Forms AND the academic letters of recommendation are either attached to this application or they are being sent directly to the program office before the deadline.

- ☐ Recommendation documents are attached here.
- ☐ Recommendation documents are being sent directly to the program office before the deadline.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR LEARNING UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES (PLUS)

The PLUS Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State's
Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs

RECOMMENDATION TO TRANSFER STUDY IN THE U.S.A.

Instructions to Student: This form should be completed by each of the three people who are writing your letters of recommendation, after you complete Part I. The recommendation forms and letters must be written by a current or past teacher/professor. One of the forms and letters should be from a secondary school teacher. The teachers should be familiar with your academic abilities and your character.

Instructions to Teacher/Professor: Your former/current student is applying for a full-scholarship to transfer to a U.S. university and earn a bachelor's degree. Please complete this form and submit a letter of recommendation on the student's behalf. Scholarship awards and entrance to the U.S. university take into consideration your ratings and assessments.

Deadline for Submission:

The completed recommendation forms and letters should be faxed or e-mailed ATTENTION PLUS Program to:

Email: _____ Fax: _____ Deadline Date for Submission: _____

PART I: To be completed by the student

Name of Applicant: _____
(as written in the passport) Last/Family Name First Middle

Home Country: _____ Field of Study: _____

PART II: To be completed by the Recommender

Name and Title of Recommender: _____

Contact information (mobile phone and e-mail if available): _____

How do you know the applicant? _____

How long have you known the applicant? ____ Months ____ Years

How do you rank the applicant among others in his/her class? ☐ Top 5% ☐ Top 10% ☐ Top 25% ☐ Other _____

Using the chart below, please rate the applicant in comparison with other students you have known in the same level/field.

	Outstanding	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unable to Judge
Academic Performance						
Intellectual Ability						
Motivation						
Potential to Contribute to the Field						
Resourcefulness & Initiative						
Leadership Qualities						
Ability to Express Ideas						
Emotional Maturity						
Adaptability to New Situations/ Potential to Benefit from Cultural Exchange						

PART III:

Please provide a typed, candid evaluation of the applicant's past academic performance and ability to pursue and successfully complete a program of study in the proposed field in the U.S.A. **Please emphasize what special qualities, characteristics, or achievements distinguish this student from others.** The scholarship selection committees and U.S. universities that will review this student's application will pay considerable attention to your statement. Therefore, please be specific and avoid generalizations. When you discuss a positive trait, provide concrete examples to back it up. Talk about what the student has done and is capable of doing. What is it exactly about the student that makes him or her special? Why do you think this student would benefit from studying in the USA?

You may write your letter on a separate sheet of paper if necessary. While it is preferable to have this document in English, you may write in another language if it allows you to provide a more complete and accurate evaluation. (It may be translated for U.S. university applications, if needed, at a later date.) Please sign and date this form and any separate paper attachments.

Signature: _____ Date: _____